



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**NOVEMBER 21, 2005**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

PROJECT CEASEFIRE  
**BLUE SPRINGS MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS FOR FIREARM,  
INDEPENDENCE, KC FELONS ALSO SENTENCED**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three felons were sentenced in federal court today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. Today's sentencings, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

\* **Christopher J. Morris**, 34, of Blue Springs, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to 15 years and eight months in federal prison without parole.

On Aug. 30, 2004, **Morris** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Morris** admitted that he was in possession of a Mossberg 20-gauge shotgun on May 14, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Morris** has 1998 criminal felony convictions for burglary and stealing and 1997 criminal felony convictions for burglary and receiving stolen property.

**Morris** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 13, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Booneville, Mo., Police Department, the Bunceton, Mo., Police Department, the Lafayette County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Brandon L. Walton**, 23, of Independence, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to seven years and one month in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 1, 2005, **Walton** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Walton** admitted that he was in possession of a Sturm Ruger .357-caliber revolver on March 4, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Walton** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for tampering and a 2001 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon.

**Walton** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 20, 2005, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\* **Daryl W. Smith**, 42, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan this morning to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On July 22, 2005, **Smith** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Smith** admitted that he was in possession of a Rosco Arms .22-caliber revolver on March 12, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Smith** has three criminal felony convictions for driving while intoxicated from 2000, 1996 and 1993.

**Smith** was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 20, 2005, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce E. Clark. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

#### **Project Ceasefire**

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)